

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing of claims, in the Application.

Listing of claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of squeezing slabs empty, a slab being a block of allocated memory space, the method comprising the steps of:

determining whether a slab is to be squeezed empty, a collection of slabs being a pile, each pile having a maximum amount of allowable space that can be allocated thereto, wherein if an application reduces the maximum amount of allowable memory space of a pile and the current amount of memory space exceeds the reduced maximum, at least one of the slabs in the pile is targeted to be squeezed empty; and

precluding, if the slab is to be squeezed empty, data from being placed in any unused space of the slab and in any space in the slab that becomes unused anytime thereafter, wherein precluding data from being placed in an unused space of the slab includes disclaiming the unused space; and

de-allocating the slab when the slab becomes empty.

- 2-6. Canceled.

7. (Currently amended) The method of Claim [[6]] 1 wherein if the program requests advice as to which area of the allocated slab to be de-allocated, the advice is returned to the program.

8. (Currently amended) A computer program product on a computer readable medium for squeezing slabs empty, a slab being a block of allocated memory space, the computer program product comprising:

code means for determining whether a slab is to be squeezed empty, a collection of slabs being a pile, each pile having a maximum amount of allowable space that can be allocated thereto, wherein if an application reduces the maximum amount of allowable memory space of a pile and the current amount of memory space exceeds the reduced maximum, at least one of the slabs in the pile is targeted to be squeezed empty; and

code means for precluding, if the slab is to be squeezed empty, data from being placed in any unused space of the slab and in any space in the slab that becomes unused anytime thereafter, wherein precluding data from being placed in an unused space of the slab includes disclaiming the unused space; and

code means for de-allocating the slab when the slab becomes empty.

9-13. Canceled.

14. (Currently amended) The computer program product of Claim 13 8 wherein if the program requests advice as to which area of the allocated slab to be de-allocated, the advice is returned to the program.

15. (Currently amended) A system for squeezing slabs empty, a slab being a block of allocated memory space, the system comprising:

at least one storage device for storing code data; and

at least one processor for processing the code data to determine whether a slab is to be squeezed empty, a collection of slabs being a pile, each pile having a maximum amount of allowable space that can be allocated thereto, wherein if an application reduces the maximum amount of allowable memory space of a pile and the current amount of memory space exceeds the reduced maximum, at least one of the slabs in the pile is targeted to be squeezed empty; and to preclude, if the slab is to be squeezed empty, data from being placed in any unused space of the slab and in any space in the slab that becomes unused anytime thereafter, wherein to preclude data from being placed in an unused space of the slab includes disclaiming the unused space, and to de-allocate the slab when the slab becomes empty.

16 - 20.Canceled.

21. (Currently amended) The system of Claim ~~20~~ 15 wherein if the program requests advice as to which area of the allocated slab to be de-allocated, the advice is returned to the program.